

June 28, 2005

Dear Sirs and Madames,

Filipo Marc Winery opened for business on February 11, 2004 by me, Gerard & my wife, Tressa Giacona. We went through an extreme amount of scrutiny by the state, local and federal government to gain the right to own and operate a small winery in the state of Michigan.

Since opening last year, we have hired three people to add to our operation. We have experienced a great success in a short period of time and are presently moving to a new, larger facility to meet the demands of our customers. We have had numerous people from all over the United States visit our location. These customers have come to love our product, but by law we cannot send these customers our products.

House Bill 4959 and others recently being proposed will not only protect, but give an iron clad guarantee to the Wine Distributors, having total control of all wine sales in the state of Michigan. In the past this was labeled Monopoly. What happened to our free-market country?

However, the only reality I know, based on **House Bill 4959** and the others being passed is this: my wife and I along with all the other small wineries in Michigan will have our **Small Wine Makers Licenses** revoked and we will no longer be able to conduct the business we have worked so hard to establish.

The proposed legislation is not giving me, a **Small Wine Maker**, a mandate to change how we make a living, but is telling me that my only option is to cease and desist. How will we recoup our investment in equipment, in buildings, and people hired in our first year of operation if this passes? The answer is most likely nothing except bankruptcy. There is no restitution if this law passes.

This is the wrong time in Michigan history to attack an industry that could be a ray of light to the failing automotive dependent state we reside in with unemployment recently being reported as being 2% higher than the national average of 5.1%.

I am asking you to turn down this legislation before it progresses any further and to finally tell the wholesalers and distributors that they have no God given right to own the marketplace. Remember we are in a free market system. Please let competition continue and may the consumer continue to be the winner.

Sincerely,



Gerard D. Giacona & Tressa M. Giacona
Owner/ Co Owner

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